

UPTON-ON-SEVERN  
RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

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R E P O R T




of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
for the Year 1942.

BY  
M. J. QUIRKE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

WITH  
THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

BY  
H. E. FIRTH, Cert. Royal San. Ins.

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UPTON-ON-SEVERN RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

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REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1942.

To:-

The Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council.

The Report for the year 1942 must necessarily be brief. I have little material, beyond the figures provided by the Registrar-General, at my disposal. As regards statistics, in compliance with circular 2604 of the Ministry of Health, in order to avoid providing data for the reconstruction of the distribution of population in the District I am showing rates only, omitting total numbers of births etc.,

Vital Statistics.

Birth-rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population was 14.0 (England & Wales 15.8).

Still-birth rate per 1000 total (live and still) births was 36.4.

For each 1000 of resident population the rate was 0.53, that for England and Wales being 0.54.

Death-rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population was 11.4 (England and Wales 11.6).

No comparability figure is available, so these rates cannot be corrected in accordance with age and sex distribution in the District as compared with the mean distribution for England & Wales.

Death-rate of infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1000 live births 16.2 (England and Wales 49.0).

Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births 17.1.

Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births NIL.

Deaths from Cancer at all ages numbered 20.

There were no deaths from Measles, Whooping Cough or Diarrhoea (under 2 yrs. of age).

There was no unusual or excessive mortality.

Deaths under one year of age were all due to prematurity or to congenital defect.

Tuberculosis (all forms). The incidence rate for the District was 0.98 per 1000 of the estimated resident population and the death rate 0.22.

Notifications of Infectious Diseases:-

The total number dealt with during the year was 111. This compares with 340 in 1941, the high figure in that year being due to the prevalence of Measles and Whooping Cough.





As a result of this, the clerical work devolving upon the Medical Officer of Health personally, in this connection, was more than trebled. A system which imposes upon the Head of a Department much of the clerical work of that Department is, in my opinion wrong. This work requires no special qualifications yet it takes up most of the time which he is justified in devoting to a small part-time appointment.

Omitting Tuberculosis and non-civilian cases the numbers notified are shown in the table at the end of this Report.

Two cases of food poisoning occurred in July. Two out of three persons who had tea together developed severe symptoms two hours later. The most probable cause was thought to be some "pressed beef" bought in Worcester and after enquiry it was found that some cases had been traced to this food from the same source in that City. Both recovered.

It is interesting to note that one of the patients had consumed the same article at the mid-day meal on the same day with no ill effect.

B. Proteus only was found in a culture made from a sample of the meat.

#### Immunisation Against Diphtheria.

The work of immunising school children and younger children who could be assembled at the schools was continued under existing arrangements with the County Medical Officer. A few were treated at Infant Welfare Centres.

As the numbers of untreated school children became small the question of the routine immunisation of "new" infants before they attained school age became the chief problem. The number each year being small, the children dispersed over the whole district and there being no travelling immunising unit available I was of opinion that the only solution lay in obtaining the co-operation of General Practitioners in the District.

With the consent of the Council I drafted a letter and caused it to be circulated in August. At the Council's suggestion this was addressed in the first instance to Public Vaccinators operating in the District.

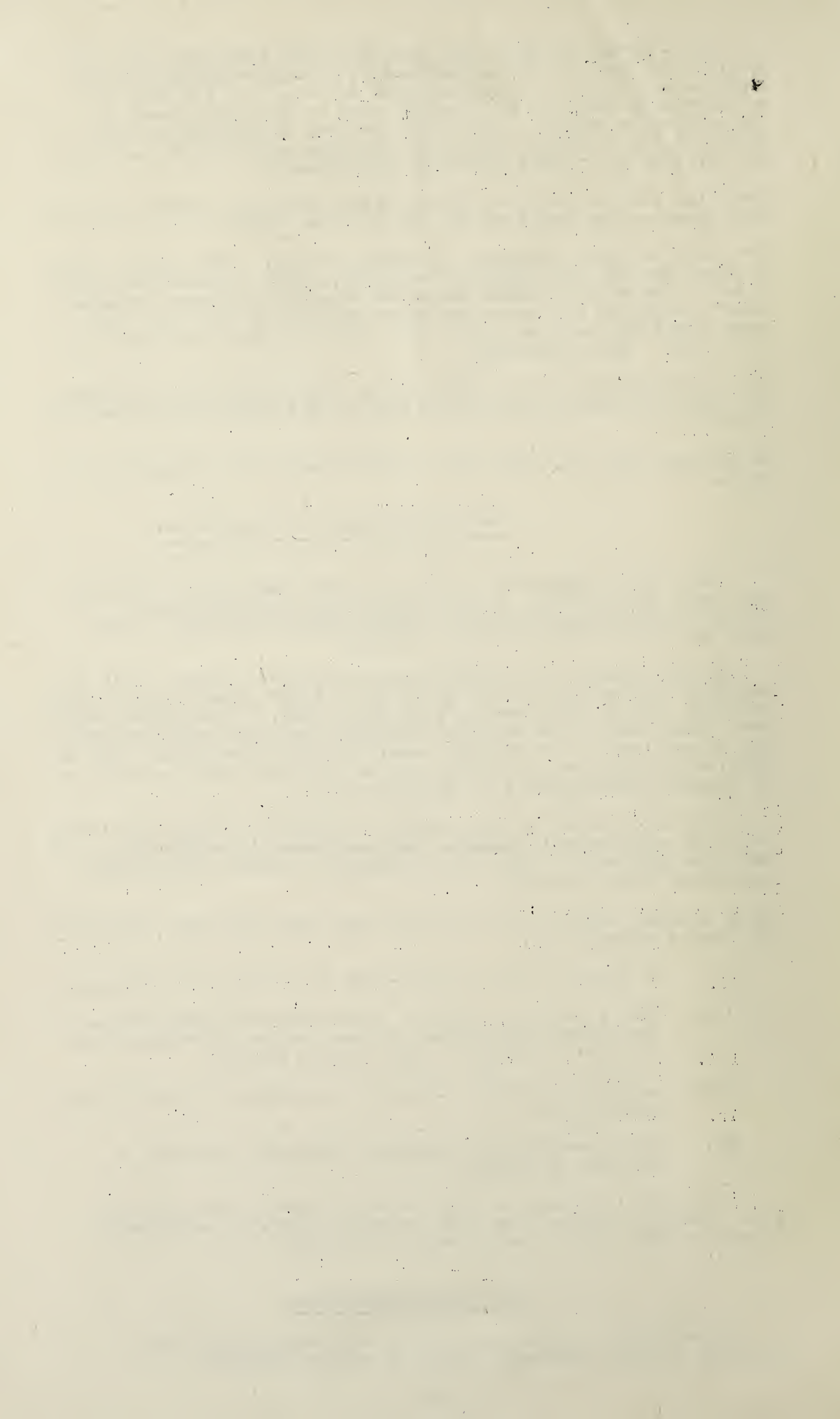
In my monthly report, read in July I had out-lined the requisites for such a scheme, viz:-

- i. A nominal roll of newly-born children, with addresses.
- ii. These forms to embody a certificate of immunisation to be signed (with dates) by the Doctor undertaking the work and returned to the Council Office.
- iii. A list of Doctors willing to undertake the work at the agreed fee.
- iv. Arrangements for supplying immunising material to Doctors on demand.

The actual working of the scheme belongs to the following year, since it took a long time to reach a working agreement. I hope to deal with it in my report for 1943.

#### Housing & Sanitation.

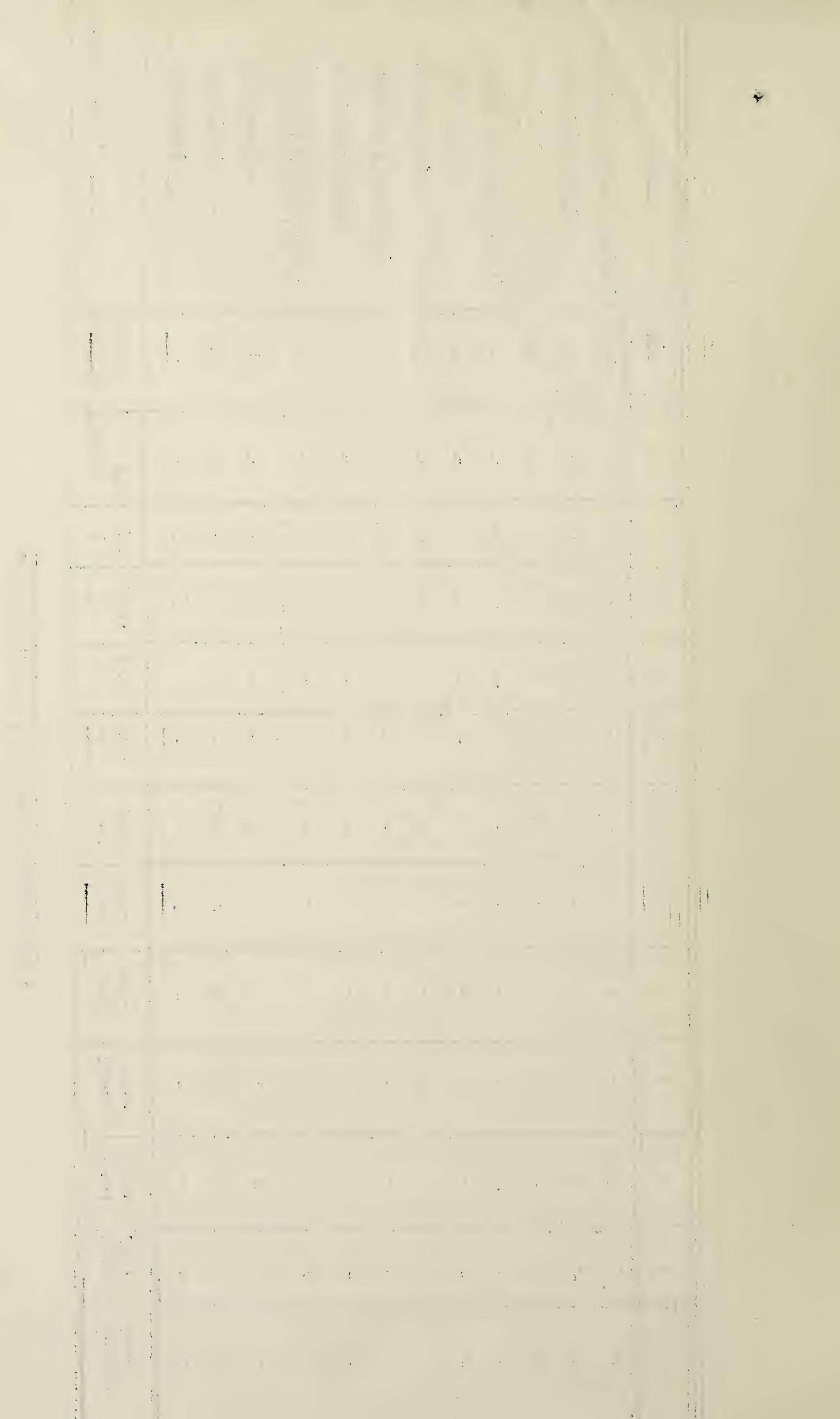
A statement of work done during the year has now been received from the Sanitary Inspector and is appended.



NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE 1942.

Disease.	At all ages.	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.	5-9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	15-19 yrs.	20-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-64 yrs.	65 and over.
Smallpox.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	33	1	-	-	1	-	14	9	5	2	1	-	-
Diphtheria.	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	-	1	-
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	4	-
Puerperal Fever.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia.	7	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	1	2	1
Erysipelas.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles.	25	2	-	1	1	4	10	3	1	2	-	1	-
Whooping Cough.	5	-	-	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever.	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	-
Totals - -	85	3	-	2	2	4	29	12	9	8	6	9	1







Causes of Deaths in 1942.

The usual table is omitted since the data would furnish material for the reconstruction of the resident population, which at the present time is not permitted.

11th May, 1944.

M. J. QUIRKE.

Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE  
YEAR            ENDING            1942.

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To:-

The Chairman and Members of the District Council.

Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present a brief report as your Sanitary Inspector for the year ending 1942.

Owing to pressure of work connected with my other duties as your Surveyor, the work imposed by Civil Defence, the shortage of staff and the fact that at this period of the war difficulties were experienced in obtaining labour and materials necessary for the structural improvement of properties, the Inspector's work in connection with housing, cowsheds, dairies etc., improvements was definitely limited.

The immediate isolation of all cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Typhoid, etc., the investigation and necessary disinfection was fully realised and every precaution was taken in preventing epidemics.

The amount of food found to be unfit was remarkably low especially considering the fact that a large increased quantity of food is now packed in tins, and possibly as much as 90% of the tinned foods were condemned owing to the tins becoming unfit due to the serious damage of the tins during transit.

In conclusion I would especially like to draw your attention to the weights of salvage disposed of during the year. Considering our population and the fact that the salvage scheme did not interfere with the usual household refuse collection service, the result was most pleasing, and one which may compare most favourably with any other similarly placed Rural Authority.

I am Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. E. FIRTH.

Sanitary Inspector.



## Infectious Disease Prevention.

Visits to premises for investigation ... ..	31
Premises disinfected after notifiable disease	44
Premises disinfected after other diseases...	4

## Diphtheria Immunisation.

### Year 1940 - 41.

<u>1 to 5 yrs.</u>	<u>5 to 15 yrs.</u>	<u>Total during period.</u>
347	1,047	1,394

### Year 1942.

93	75	168
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## WATER SUPPLY.

Parishes supplied by piped supply:-

Large portion of Upton-on-Severn Parish  
Small portion of Powick, Newland and  
large portion of Madresfield parish (private supply).

No. of water samples submitted to County Analyst for	
Bacteriological and Chemical Analysis ... ..	9
No. of such samples unfit or quoted "suspicious" ...	5
No. of wells cleaned and repaired ... ..	2

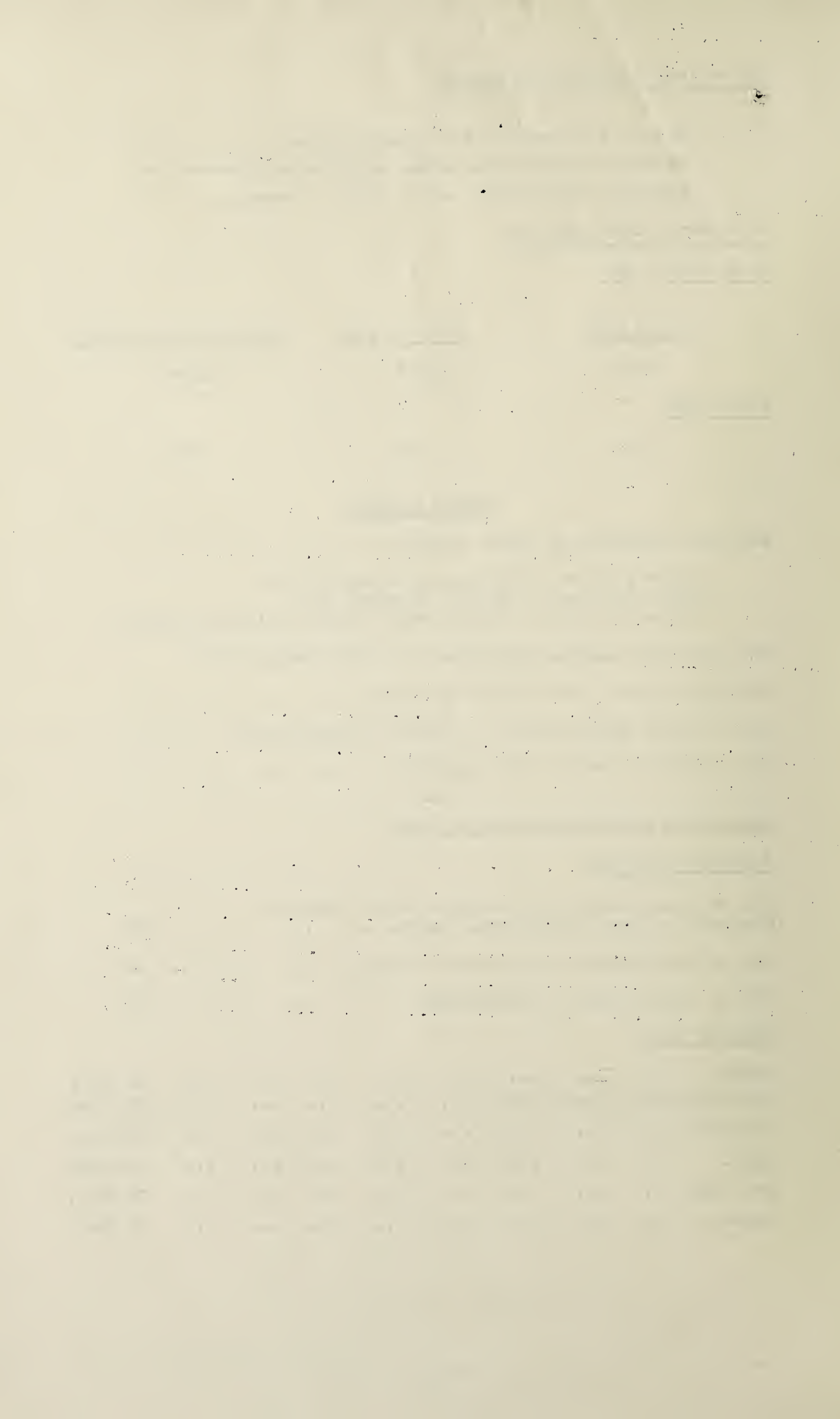
## Inspection and Supervision of Food.

### Slaughter Houses.

No. of inspections of Slaughter House used as	
Ministry of Food Allocation Centre ... ..	23
No. of inspections of Butcher's Shops.. ...	19
No. of inspections of Bakehouses. ... ..	11

### Unsound Food.

Bacon ... ..	42 lbs.
Miscellaneous Tinned Foods ... ..	122 Tins.
Oranges. ... ..	179 lbs.
Eggs. ... ..	10 Doz.
Wet Fish ... ..	70 lbs.
Butter ... ..	5 lbs.





### Milk Supply.

No. of Registered Cowkeepers	...	...	...	...	301
No. of Inspections of Cowkeepers Premises	...	...	...	...	53
No. of Milk Samples Taken	...	...	...	...	6

### Milk (Special Designations) Orders.

No. of T. T. Producers	...	...	...	...	7
No. of Grade A. Producers	....	...	...	...	40
No. of Pasteurized Producers	...	...	...	...	1

### Reports upon Pasteurized Milk.

Samples from Messrs. T.A. Tilt & Sons, Dairy, Hanley Castle.

24/2/42. Colony count of Bacteria	...	...	2000 per millilitre.
Presumptive coli test	...	...	Absent in 1, 1/10th, 1/100th & 1/1000th mltr.

The sample passed the phosphatase test, 2.0 Blue units.

10/7/42. Colony count of Bacteria	..	...	200 per millilitre.
Presumptive coli test	...	...	Absent in 1, 1/10th, 1/100th and 1/1000th millilitre.

The sample passed the phosphatase test, 1.4 blue units.

### HOUSING.

#### Inspection of dwelling houses.

No. inspected for defects under Public Health and Housing Acts..	11
No. of houses in which defects were remedied in consequence of informal action ... ..	7
No. of defective houses rendered fit after formal action .. ..	1
By Owners ... ..	0
By Local Authority ... ..	1

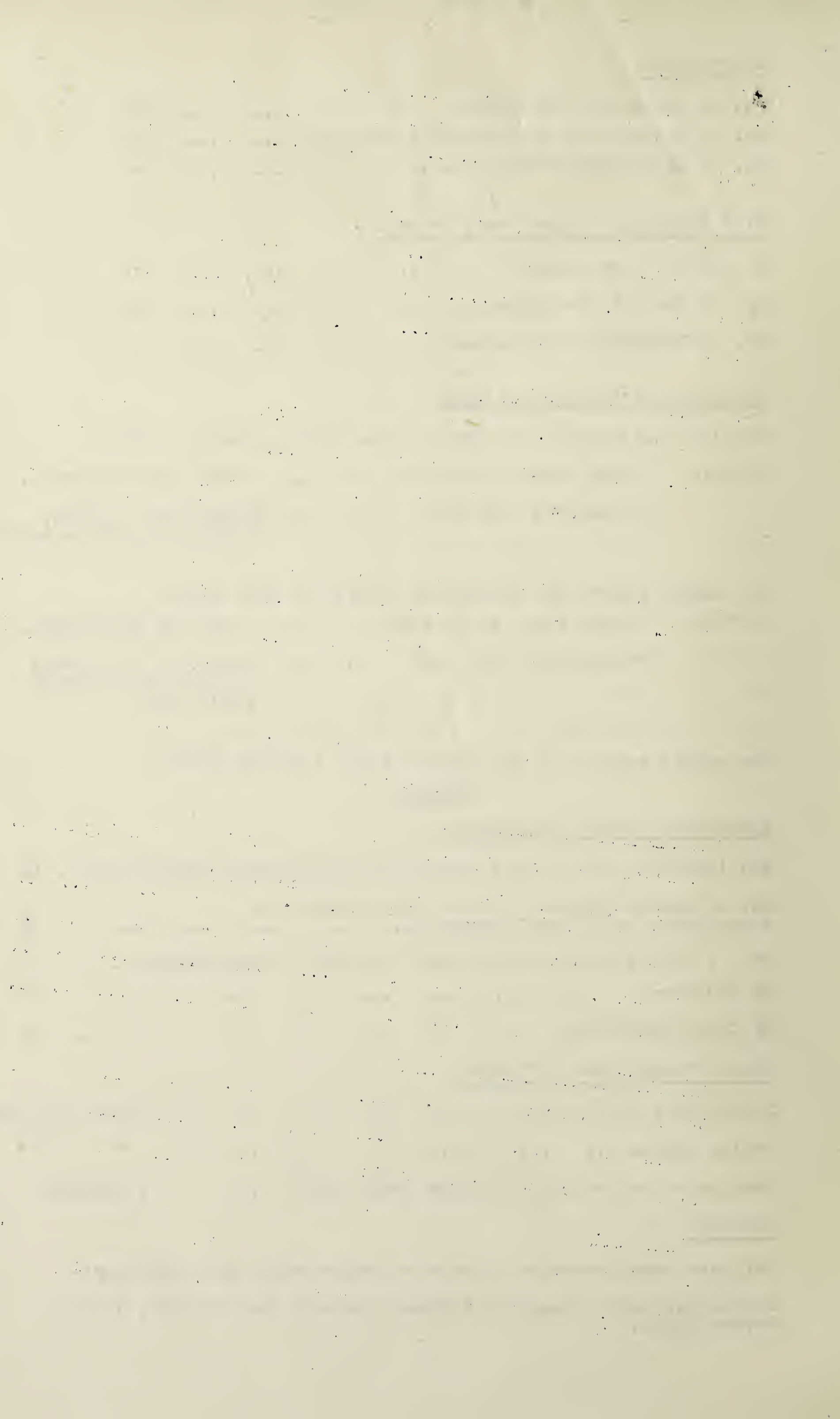
#### House Drainage and Sewerage.

Drains laid or re-laid ..	...	...	...	...	...	approx 300 yds
Drains tested ...	...	...	...	...	...	" " "
Lengths of unobstructive drains dealt with	...	...	7 lengths.			

#### Sewerage.

Parishes where sewerage schemes or improvements are necessary:-

Powick (urgently required) Welland, Newland, Madresfield, Ripple,  
Severn Stoke.



■ Public Cleansing & Salvage.

Area served by Scheme ... .. Whole District  
approx. 85% of Dwellings.

Frequency of collection ... .. Fortnightly.

Salvage Sold During Year Ending December 1942.

	<u>Tons.</u>	<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>Qtrs.</u>
Waste Paper ... ..	100	15	2
Bones ... ..	14	4	0
Rags ... ..	9	6	3
Non Ferrous Metals. ... ..	-	11	2
Ferrous ... ..	56	14	1
Rubber ... ..	5	11	2
Bottles ... ..		92 doz.	

Other Matters.

Offensive Trades. ... .. None in District.

Common Lodging Houses ... .. None in District.

Rats & Mice Destruction Act,  
cases investigated & dealt with. 5

Nuisances arising from keeping of  
domestic animals investigated and  
dealt with. None reported.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

Sites and Structures inspected. 1

Licences Granted. 1

Factory and Workshops.

<u>Premises.</u>	<u>Inspection.</u>	<u>Informal Notices.</u>
Factories.	4	1
Workshops in- cluding Bakehouses.	17	3

